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Invention: **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MAKING ACCESSIBLE  
WIRELESSLY A NETWORK PHONEBOOK AND JOURNAL  
DATABASE**

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SPECIFICATION

To all whom it may concern:

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have invented certain new and useful improvements in

**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MAKING ACCESSIBLE  
WIRELESSLY A NETWORK PHONEBOOK AND JOURNAL DATABASE**

of which the following is a specification.

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MAKING ACCESSIBLE WIRELESSLY  
A NETWORK PHONEBOOK AND JOURNAL DATABASE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates, generally, to the field of  
5 Value Added Services (VAS) and, more particularly, to  
online use of a system or network phonebook and to  
providing caller background information on  
incoming/outgoing calls based on journal viewing.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 The ever increasing reliance on networking among  
competing businesses in the free market and the meteoric  
or growth of the internet and online services are strong  
evidences to the benefits of shared data and shared  
resources. Increasingly, companies, corporations,  
15 organizations or associations and the like are finding  
more and more that wireless communication and,  
particularly, Wireless Local Area Networks (WLANs) are an  
indispensable addition to the more traditional wired  
local area networks (wired LANs) to satisfy the needs for  
20 mobility, relocation, *ad hoc* networking, and coverage of  
locations difficult to wire. Through the benefits of  
wireless LANs (WLANs), wireless terminal users can access  
shared information without having to find a plug-in for  
their terminal and on the management side, networks can  
25 be set up or augmented without having to install new

wirings or alter previously installed wirings. With wireless LANs, advantages in convenience as well as in improved productivity and reduced future costs over traditional wired networks are evident.

5           The wireless LAN is completely transparent to the user, exactly like the wired LAN, but without the limitations of having to be physically hooked up to a wired connection. In a wireless LAN environment, your office is where your wireless terminal is located such as  
10   a wireless phone, Personal Digital Assistance (PDA), a palmtop device, and a portable computer such as a notebook/laptop computer which operates wirelessly and which may also have a phone hookup capability.

Traditionally, company phonebooks which have been  
15   available electronically to company personnel have been done so through the facility of a web browser on a Personal Computer (PC) such as a desktop connected to the wired LAN. Under such a wired scheme, a company employee, for example, can only access numbers that are  
20   stored centrally, for example, using a shared drive, while locally stored numbers (within the user's database) cannot be accessed easily through the network. That is, conventionally, one can access a remotely located phonebook information in a communication system such as a  
25   company network using a PC connected to the network with a separate contacts application, as in MICROSOFT OUTLOOK.

However, such phonebook application is not tightly integrated with access to the local phonebook information at the user's terminal. Moreover, such contacts application has been typically used more so for storage or viewing of E-mail addresses rather than to access phone numbers and to initiate calls.

Another earlier developed scheme pertains to the SPT 1700 Product Family developed by Symbol Technologies, Inc. That is, this product family is directed to products including Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) capabilities in which the terminal user can make an outgoing call by locating the personal Internet Protocol (IP) number of the person or party to be called which is stored in the local memory in the wireless phone database. In such a product family, the information is stored into the local database, namely, into the wireless phone database, for example, by himself or herself.

Although there are other more current wireless terminal products, which have even much greater storage capability in the local database, a phonebook database is, basically, limited to that available in the local phonebook, namely, in the wireless terminal database.

Another prior known scheme is the CISCO CALLMANAGER such as VERSION 2.4. The Cisco CallManager software has a number of integrated voice applications that perform voice conferencing, manual Web attendant console, a

click-to-call function and other functions. In addition, a MICROSOFT WINDOWS TAPI (Telepathy Applications Programming Interface) is available for the Cisco active phonebook, which has a click-to-call function and a browsable directory. In accordance with this active phonebook application, one can place a call or reply to a call or put the call on hold from a PC. Typically, according to such a scheme, the PC user would wear a headset for voice communication while browsing the screen on the PC, which is wired to the network. Solutions like the CISCO ACTIVE PHONEBOOK relate to schemes in which a call comes through the 'The Data World' over the intranet/internet and only voice communication and needed controls are performed by the voice terminal, namely, the user phone. For example, with regard to a phonebook directory, one can connect his or her PDA or a palm phone to the serial port of his or her PC and download phone numbers, addresses, E-mail addresses, and other contact information from the network to the database of the PDA or palm phone for later use, namely, when the phone or PDA is in the wireless mode. That is, such phonebook information is downloaded to a local database while in an offline connection with the network. Such downloading of information would require considerable storage space in the local database (associated with the wireless terminal). In addition to

consuming a large amount of local storage space, the information that is stored locally does not remain up-to-date for too long.

In most modern office Private Branch Exchanges (PBXs), there are kept records of outgoing calls. Some PBXs can be equipped with call tracking software which enables also tracking of incoming calls. In helpdesk kind of phone software equipment, the information on incoming calls is stored in customer databases. In most cases this kind of information can only be viewed on user's PC screen. The biggest drawback related to the traditional way of viewing call related data is the fact that such type of call tracking software always requires a PC (wired to the network). Further, there is another drawback, namely, it is not possible to view additional online data such as tasks, E-mails and documents related to originating or terminating calls and the like, simultaneously. As an example, a wireless Digital European Cordless Telecommunication (DECT) phone such as with regard to Alcatel's PBX equipment shows the number/name of caller, date and time of call and call duration associated with the last 20 calls. However, in addition to limiting the view to only the last 20 calls, the calls cannot be sorted on the basis of the caller.

FIG. 13 illustrates an example of a conventional incoming call identification process associated with a wireless terminal in a wireless LAN. In this example, the wireless terminal has a database which stores

5    phonebook information -- although limited by the size of the storage database. The stored information is either inputted by the wireless terminal user (owner) and/or downloaded through an offline connection to a network PC. In accordance with such a scheme, when the wireless

10   terminal has an incoming call, it identifies the phone number of the caller through a caller line identification process at the terminal side (S1 in FIG. 13) and compares this phone number to the phonebook database that is stored locally in the user terminal (S2). If this

15   comparison leads to a match (S3), the caller name is displayed on the wireless terminal screen (S4) whereby the caller ID process ends (S5). If a match is not found, only the caller phone number is displayed at the user terminal (S6) and the caller ID process ends.

20        This conventional approach has similar drawbacks as that earlier discussed. For one, the user has to enter the number and/or any other contact information in the local phonebook (e.g., the user terminal database) before making the call. Further, the wireless terminal or

25   handset, typically, does not have enough memory to handle/store the entire company (network) phonebook.

Moreover, the phonebook and/or any background information which may have been previously stored in a database may no longer be accurate due to a continual updating of the server/databases by the network.

## 5     SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10         The present invention is directed to providing a wireless terminal user online access to a phonebook database and, moreover, online access to a journal database which contains background information directed to an incoming call or an outgoing call in a communication system including in connection with a Wireless LAN (WLAN) that substantially obviates problems arising from limitations and disadvantages of prior known schemes including that discussed hereinabove.

15         In wireless terminals that have the facility of a user interface (UI) to access information stored in a network such as a wireless local area network (WLAN), it is highly desirable to provide the end users easy and instant access to phonebook information stored in the network. The intention is to provide consistent access to both local (offline) and remote (online) phonebooks. The local phonebook relates to information stored in a local database such as the local memory in the wireless user terminal and the remote phonebook is associated with  
20         a system or network such as in a WLAN database. This  
25



access is to be easy and, also, to provide the terminal user the option to automatically copy accessed/selected remote phonebook entries to the user terminal phonebook for later use and access offline.

5           It is a featured aspect of the invention to provide the terminal user a wireless online access to a phonebook database. Access to the network is enabled wirelessly, for example, by WLAN. The phonebook may be located in the local network and the wireless terminal is operably  
10 connected to the network.

          In accordance with a method and system therefor of the invention, the user terminal has wireless online access to the phonebook database, such as with regard to a company phonebook, at the time of either incoming phone  
15 calls to the user terminal or outgoing calls to be made by the terminal user. For incoming phone calls to the wireless terminal, the invention, according to one aspect, calls for a caller line phone number identification process at the wireless terminal and on  
20 the basis of a phone number identification instructing the system, which may be wireless LAN, calls for searching the phonebook database to identify the name of the caller and to send results of the search to the user terminal such that if the caller identity search is  
25 successful, identification of the caller is presented at the wireless terminal, and if the caller identify search

is not successful, the phone number is presented only at the wireless terminal. In accordance with the inventive featured aspect directed to outgoing calls to be made wirelessly, from the user terminal, the invention calls for instructing the system, which may be a wireless LAN, to search the appropriate network database to locate a phone number and/or person or party to be called and to send results of that search to the wireless terminal. With regard to the outgoing call to be made, if the phone number/destination of the call to be made is found in the network database, the same is presented at the wireless terminal, and if the phone number/destination is not found during an initial search query of the phonebook database, the wireless terminal user, optionally, may modify the search query to the phonebook database, for example, through making new or modified search queries until the phone numbers and/or destination (person or party) of the call to be made is found or until the terminal user decides to terminate the identification process.

According to a further aspect of the invention, a protocol application is employed to allow communication between the wireless terminal and the system or network, the protocol application may be a Wireless Application Protocol (WAP), a Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and

a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP), although not limited thereto.

According to another inventive aspect of the present invention, the method and system therefor also calls for  
5 a journal viewing application in which the communication system, which may be a wireless LAN, searches a journal database for background information associated with at least one of a caller of an incoming phone call and a phone number or person/party of an outgoing call to be  
10 made and sends results of the background information search to the wireless terminal. Both the phonebook application as well as the journal viewing application can be effected using a common protocol application and, therefore, a common transport interface, for example, a  
15 WAP interface, a HTTP interface, or a LDAP interface, although not limited thereto.

Both the phonebook application as well as the journal viewing application may be associated with an infrastructure such as in connection with a wireless LAN  
20 which may have a few or a large number of wireless terminals, one or more access points and a wired backbone. In accordance with such a scheme, the phonebook/journal database is provided in the network and may be accessed through a server associated with the  
25 network. Each wireless terminal may have a user interface such as for allowing the terminal user to

interact with the network. Examples of user interfaces are command-line interfaces, menu-driven interfaces, and graphical user interfaces, although not limited thereto.

5 The online linkup between the user terminal and a wireless LAN may be while the terminal user is within the area covered by the wireless LAN or may be outside the area covered by the wireless LAN, in which case, communication with the network may be over the internet.

10 The information stored in the phonebook database may include phone numbers of office phones, facsimile phones, cell and mobile phones, pagers and handheld devices including Personal Digital Assistance (PDAs) and palm units with and without voice capability and may also have contact addresses and terminal addresses including E-mail  
15 addresses of desktop and portable computers and the like, which are some examples of information which may be contained in the phonebook database. Additionally, the phonebook information held in the database may include name and profile information of personnel/clients of a  
20 company or corporation, a company plant, or organization/association and the like, as some examples, although not limited thereto.

The background information associated with the journal viewing application, which is available from the  
25 journal database of the system, such as a wireless LAN, may maintain an ongoing record of previous phone calls,

originating and terminating, including dates, times and durations; prior E-mails (both incoming and outgoing associated with a caller); task lists; documents associated with originating or terminating calls; a  
5 project; a calendar date; and a company or plant associated with originating or terminating call, as some examples, although not limited thereto.

In accordance with the present invention, a phone call can be initiated from the network server, having  
10 access to the phonebook database, as easily as from the local phonebook, namely, at the user terminal. Also, this network phonebook service can automatically add numbers to the local phonebook in accordance with the user's choice and, moreover, the terminal user is able to  
15 browse through the phonebook while having, at the same time, an active phone call.

Still further, with regard to a method and system therefor of obtaining background information, such as, through effecting a journal viewing application, the  
20 background information presented at the wireless terminal side, which may be browsed by the user, may be filtered and presented in an organized fashion including with headings, as selected by the terminal user.

The following represent current ways of obtaining a  
25 phone number that is not stored in the local phonebook, e.g. a wireless terminal database. Traditionally,

assistance may be sought through making a phone call for directory assistance. This type of personalized service can be costly, rather slow and could not be used during a meeting since it would be disruptive. A second way to  
5 locate a phone call may be by searching through a telephone directory or catalogue. This would always require an up-to-date catalogue however, typically, most mobile phone numbers are not included in catalogues (telephone directories). A third way to locate a phone  
10 number is to simply look it up on one's PC from the company network phonebook. However, as noted earlier, this requires a PC and, moreover, one is not able to make instant phone calls from most presently existing PCs.

The present invention, on the other hand, does not  
15 require the user to be bound to a certain location such as a PC which is connected to a wired backbone to get the needed information. The phonebook, according to the present invention, is always wirelessly and instantly accessible by the user terminal. In accordance with  
20 conventional schemes, in most cases, the user has to enter the phone number in his/her terminal before making the call or storing the contact information in the local phonebook. The network phonebook in accordance with the present invention is an integrated approach such that  
25 from an end user perspective, calling from a network

phonebook is as easy as calling from the local phonebook at the user terminal side.

Regarding the journal viewing application, a main benefit thereof is the instant, easy accessibility to  
5 real-time background information from the network database in contradistinction to the traditional way to manually enter the journal database. In accordance with the present invention, the terminal user has online access to an existing database and can, therefore, easily  
10 keep track of information related to his or her incoming/outgoing calls. Further, in addition to receiving basic call information, for example, on the viewing screen of the handheld terminal, the user will be able to keep all desired/necessary call related  
15 information arranged in an organized fashion as well as obtain that information more quickly and easier than that previously typically available. Background information obtained instantly is particularly important and advantageous to company personnel such as sales people,  
20 service personnel and others who are regularly in direct contact with clients and who need access to related and relevant data pertaining to callers of incoming calls as well as persons or contacts associated with outgoing calls.

25 A drawback with the traditional way of viewing call related data is that the call tracking software

associated therewith requires a PC. Another drawback is that according to traditional approaches, one cannot view additional online information such as tasks, prior E-mails, documents related to a project associated with a caller or person to be called. Compared to the traditional way of manually entering information into the journal database, a main benefit of the present invention is the ability to obtain instant and easy access to the journal database. Also, information pertaining to prior correspondences with the caller or person to be called is provided always at the right time just when it is needed, namely, at the time of the incoming call as well as at the time of initiating call. Moreover, as in the phonebook application, terminal users needing call related information need not be situated where there is PC. Also, by using a hands-free facility such as a headset for voice communication, the terminal user can access or browse through call related data in the handheld device, for example, when speaking. This additional value added service or journal viewing application is able to keep track of all outgoing and incoming calls during time periods selected by the user.

The above set forth and other featured aspects of the invention are made more apparent and are further described in the ensuing detailed description of example  
25 embodiments and the claims when read in connection with



the accompanying drawings, all forming a part of the disclosure of this invention. While the foregoing and following illustrated disclosure focuses on disclosing example embodiments of the invention, it should be

5 clearly understood that the same is by way of illustration and example only and the invention is not limited thereto. The spirit and scope of the present invention are limited only by the terms of the appended claims.

10 The following represents brief descriptions of the drawings wherein:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Fig. 1 is a system diagram showing examples of networks according to the present invention;

15 Fig. 2 is a flowchart of a first example of a method for providing a wireless terminal access to a phonebook database of a system or network according to the present invention;

20 Fig. 3 is a flowchart of a second example of a method for providing a wireless terminal access to a phonebook database of a system or network according to the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a flowchart of a third example of a method for providing a wireless terminal access to a phonebook

database of a system or network according to the present invention;

Fig. 5 is a flowchart of a fourth example of a method for providing a wireless terminal access to a phonebook database of a system or network according to the present invention;

Fig. 6 is a flowchart of a first example for providing a wireless terminal access to a journal database of a system or network according to the present invention;

Fig. 7 is a flowchart of a second example for providing a wireless terminal access to a journal database of a system or network according to the present invention;

Fig. 8 is an example of a system/network phonebook application viewer screen of a user terminal showing names, phone numbers and other related information along with pictures of the individuals matched to a phonebook search query;

Fig. 9 is an example of the journal database providing the wireless terminal user appropriate organized background information related to an originating or terminating call according to the present invention;

Fig. 10 is a first example of a protocol application at the user terminal end and server end of a system or network according to the present invention;

Fig. 11 is a second example of a protocol application at the user terminal end and server end of a system or network according to the present invention;

Fig. 12 is a third example of a protocol application at the user terminal end and server end of a system or network according to the present invention; and

Fig. 13 is a flowchart of a conventional method for providing a wireless terminal access to a network phonebook database.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to providing the terminal user a wireless online access to a phonebook database as well as to a journal database with regard to a company or corporation, a company plant or organization/association and the like. Value Added Services (VASs) are implemented as part of a communication system such as a Wireless LAN (WLAN). Under the WLAN system, access to the network is effected wirelessly. In accordance with the present invention, through utilizing a company wireless LAN infrastructure, the intranet and the internet, terminal users roaming within a corporate system and the like or, for that

matter, located outside the range of the company wireless LAN infrastructure, can still access a company network database. WLANs offer fast and easy access to wired corporate LANs and their services. A wireless LAN can be  
5 implemented as an extension to the existing amount of information that needs to be carried over the network. In effect, in a WLAN environment, one's office is where one's laptop/wireless terminal is. This is particularly true for business personnel whose work takes them away  
10 from the office as well as for company sales and service personnel and the like whose job description requires regular contacts with clients and other office professionals.

Wireless LAN systems can provide wireless terminal  
15 users with access to real-time information anywhere in the company or organization. This mobility supports productivity and service opportunities which are not otherwise possible with wired networks. For example, in a number of environments there is a role for wireless LAN  
20 as an alternative to a wired LAN and/or as an adjunct to a wired LAN. In most instances, an organization or company will also have a wired LAN to support servers in some stationary work stations. For example, there may be a backbone wired LAN, such as Ethernet, and the like,  
25 supporting servers, work stations, and one or more

bridges or routers to linkup with other networks. Such  
wired support is referred to as an infrastructure or  
backbone wired LAN. Wireless LAN systems are also highly  
scalable. That is, a wireless LAN can be configured to  
5 fit a variety of topologies to meet the needs of specific  
applications and installations. Configurations are  
easily changed and range from peer-to-peer networks  
suitable for a small number of users to full  
infrastructure networks of many thousands of users that  
10 allows roaming over a broad area. By utilizing the  
existing wired LAN, the intranet and the internet, users  
have fast-online access to the resources in the network.

An example embodiment that will be used to  
illustrate the various examples of the present invention  
15 is an embodiment where the communication system contains  
or may be a network and the network is a wireless LAN.  
Fig. 1 is a diagram of an example of networks applicable  
to the present invention. These example networks are  
Wireless LANS (WLANS). In infrastructure WLANS, multiple  
20 access points link the WLAN to the wired network and  
allow users to efficiently share network resources. The  
access points not only provide communication with the  
wired network (intranet) but also mediate wireless  
network traffic in the immediate neighborhood, i.e. the  
25 area covered by the individual access points. Multiple

access points can provide wireless coverage for an entire building or a campus facility.

With regard to the Fig. 1 embodiment, WLAN access points 12, 22 and 32 provide wireless access to WLANs 11, 21 and 31, respectively, for wireless terminals. Wireless terminals 13, 14 and 15 are connected to WLAN 11 via access point 12. Wireless terminals 23 and 24 are connected to WLAN 21 via access point 22 while wireless terminals 33 and 34 are connected to WLAN 31 via access point 32. Wireless terminals such as 13, 14, 15, 23, 24, 33 and 34 may be any wireless device used for communication including but not limited to a wireless telephone, a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), a palm top device, and a portable computer with wireless capability such as a notebook or laptop computer and which may have phone hookup capability such as to connect a headphone to allow browsing the computer screen while at the same time communicating by voice. Voice communication may be effected through Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) such as that conforming to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) standards for internet telepathy, namely, standard H.323.

If a terminal is outside of the network coverage area of all the access points on the wireless LAN, the terminal does not have direct access to the WLAN. Although in this example telecommunication system, only

one access point is illustrated as being included in each of the WLANs 11, 21 and 31, each such WLAN may have several or large number of access points to effect connectivity between all of the wireless terminals that are distributed throughout the WLAN. In the example given in Fig. 1, WLAN 11 is associated with a head office building, for example, of a company. Other company buildings which may be located in other geographic areas, such as branch office 30, in Fig. 1, may have its own WLAN for its own campus. The access points are typically situated in strategically convenient locations within and/or outside of campus buildings so as to allow the wireless terminals to have connection to the WLAN everywhere in the campus. Access points have limited ranges, typically, from 100 to 300 or more feet range within which a wireless terminal must be in order to be connected to the WLAN. However, other buildings or locations that are not part of a company such as airports, hotels, etc., may have one or more access points that do allow wireless terminals access to a WLAN associated therewith, for example, WLAN 21 in Fig. 1, which has the ability through some other method of communicating with other WLANs, e.g., via the internet 40. Also, communication may occur between WLANs of a company that are located in different buildings in different geographic areas such as over the internet.

For example, wireless terminal 13, connected to WLAN 11 at the head office 10, may communicate via access point 12 to WLAN 11, to the internet 40, and then to WLAN 31 at the branch office building 30, located in the different geographic area. Communication between different wireless phones, for example, which are respectively associated with different WLANs may communicate with each other over the internet through VoIP where the voice signals are transferred using the internet protocol rather than through normal wired telephone connections such as Private Branch Exchanges (PBXs) and Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

Fig. 2 of the drawings illustrates a flowchart of one example of implementing a phonebook application in a system including a network such as a WLAN in connection with incoming calls to a wireless terminal. This example is being illustrated to show how the present invention, in connection with incoming calls, is an improvement over a prior known scheme such as the conventional approach discussed earlier with regard to Fig. 13 of the drawings. It is emphasized, the phonebook application, according to the present invention, is such that the wireless terminal user can easily select on the User Interface (UI) the phonebook that is to be shown. Assuming that the user terminal has a database which acts like a local phonebook database, the terminal user can select through the UI



program in the terminal a setting such that for incoming and/or outgoing calls, the phonebook application includes (i) sending search queries only to the local database, (ii) sending search queries to the remote network

5 phonebook database when the local phonebook search query is unsuccessful, (iii) sending search queries directly to the remote phonebook database which is, typically, server accessed at the network or (iv) simultaneously, sending search queries to both the locally stored phonebook and  
10 to the network phonebook. In the process 200 illustrated in Fig. 2, the network application directed to the network phonebook commences when a search query associated with the local phonebook is not successful.

When the wireless terminal has an incoming call, the  
15 caller line identification process at the terminal identifies the caller phone number (201) and compares this phone number to the local phonebook database in the user terminal (202). If this comparison leads to a match (203), the caller name is displayed on the wireless  
20 terminal screen (204) and the caller name ID process ends (210). If the comparison does not lead to a match at the local phonebook side, the phonebook application is automatically redirected to the network side (205) in which case the network queries the phonebook database  
25 (206). If the search in the network phonebook leads to a

match (207), the caller name is presented at the wireless terminal (208) whereby the caller ID process ends (210).

The identification of a caller of an incoming call and, also, with regard to a person or party to be called may include both a name and affiliation of the person including profile information such as business card information including position in a client firm or company and the like. The incoming call may be either another employee of the same company or person or party directed to a client or other business contact. Further, the caller ID information presented at the user terminal side may also include background information along with the caller name identification. The process involving obtaining background information of calls (for both incoming and outgoing calls) will be discussed later with regard to Figs. 6 and 7 of the drawings. If the network phonebook searching does not lead to caller name identification, then similarly as with regard to S4 in Fig. 1, the caller phone number is presented/displayed only at the user terminal (209) in which case the caller ID process ends.

Fig. 3 of the drawings illustrates a second example of providing wireless access to a user terminal of, for example, the network phonebook. The process 300 involved is similar to that in Fig. 2 except that with regard to the method according to Fig. 3, the terminal user has

instructed via the UI that the phonebook application is to search only the network phonebook. In this connection, the process involving 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306 and 307 correspond to that in Fig. 2 but, however, without the processes involving 202, 203 and 204 in Fig. 2.

As further examples of effecting the phonebook application process involving the network phonebook database, Figs. 4 and 5 will now be discussed.

Fig. 4 illustrates a third example of wirelessly accessing, for example, a network phonebook via a user terminal in connection with an outgoing call to be made. The process 400 in Fig. 4 is similar to process 200 in Fig. 2 in respect to the setting selected by the user on the UI of the wireless terminal, namely, the phonebook application is set so as to query first the local phonebook associated with the user terminal. If an identification (ID) is not made of the person or party to be called through searching the local phonebook database, the phonebook application is reverted to the network side.

It is emphasized, in a communication system such as a wireless LAN, in order for the benefits associated with wireless accessing of the network phonebook as well as wireless accessing of the network journal database (which will be described later) to be fully realized, the

wireless terminal should be continuously maintained in the network without interruption except, for example, when the network or system servers are down such as for servicing. Such continuous online accessibility is

5 somewhat different from that compared to normal cellular phones/devices that work, typically, in a circuit switch mode such as PBX and PSTN.

In accordance with the present invention, the phonebook application can be implemented by employing an

10 additional or separate phonebook application or can be provided as a Value Added Service (VAS) to the existing protocol applications available in the device. When implementing the phonebook application as, for example, a separate WLAN phonebook service, the phonebook

15 application is extended in such a way that it can access a remote phonebook from the same UI as that used for accessing the local phonebook at the user terminal. An example of achieving this is through employing an application protocol or software protocol known as

20 Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) which enables anyone to locate organizations, individuals and other resources such as files and devices in a network, whether on the internet or on a corporate intranet. This software protocol also works on Transmission Control

25 Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) which is used for communications between computers as well as being a

standard for data transmission over networks, including  
the internet. LDAP is a "lightweight" (smaller amount of  
code) version of Directory Access Protocol (DAP), which  
is part of X.500, a standard for directory services in a  
5 network. This specialized phonebooks/contacts  
application, although other forms of proprietary  
protocols may be used, is discussed further with regard  
to the embodiment in Fig. 12 of the drawings.

According to conventional approaches for locating  
10 phonebook information/contact information, accessing of  
such phonebook information is through using a PC, which  
is wired to the company network, and employing a separate  
contacts application, for example, the contacts  
application in MICROSOFT OUTLOOK. However, as discussed  
15 earlier, such accessing into the network is not fully  
integrated with accessing to the local phonebook  
database. Also, the conventional approach has typically  
been used more so for storage/viewing of E-mail addresses  
rather than accessing of phone numbers such as to  
20 initiate outgoing calls.

When the present invention is implemented as a value  
added service, the local phonebook at the user interface  
as well as the remote phonebook located in, for example,  
a network database may be accessed using either a World  
25 Wide Web (WWW) or Web browser which is Hypertext Markup  
Language (HTML) based. Alternatively, the protocol

application can be a Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) based phonebook application using a WAP browser which is Wireless Markup Language (WML) based. Using either the former or the latter, forms may be built so that both the local phonebook and remote phonebook can both be browsed. According to this approach, the local phonebook at the user terminal can be accessed using the browser even if there is no access to the remotely located WWW (web) or WAP server. A local phonebook browsing connection is an offline connection from that of the wireless LAN. Therefore, in order to effect such dual browsing capability by the user terminal, a cache memory may be used at the wireless terminal side. Additional discussion regarding web/WAP browsing will be made with regard to the embodiments in Figs. 11 and 12 of the drawings.

Conventionally, as discussed above, remotely located phonebook information in the network can be accessed using a PC wired to the network using, for example, a Web browser. However, unlike in specialized contacts application such as LDAP application, such accessing is not integrated at all to the accessing of the local phonebook information in the PC. Moreover, when a PC user is web browsed, a phone call must be initiated elsewhere. Discussion will now turn back to the network phonebook application shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings.

The flowchart in Fig. 4 represents an example of wirelessly accessing a phonebook database of a system such as a wireless LAN in connection with an outgoing call to be made. When a wireless terminal user wants to initiate an outgoing call, of a person who is within that network or outside the network such as a client or professional contact, the user who has access to that wireless terminal makes a selection on the UI at the terminal that, in the case of process 400 in Fig. 4, the local phonebook at the terminal is first queried to locate the number or name of a person or party to be called (401). If the search at the local phonebook database is unsuccessful then the search is automatically reverted to the network phonebook in which case the network is instructed to start a phonebook application (403) for the services of, for example, a network server having access to the phonebook database (404). If the phone number and/or destination (e.g., person or party) of the call to be made is located in the database (405), the same is presented at the user terminal (408). If, however, the phone number and/or destination is not found during the initial search query of the network phonebook database (405), the wireless terminal user, optionally, may modify the query (406) to the network phonebook through successively making one or more new or modified search queries until the phone number of person or party

of the call to be made is located (407) or until a terminal user decides to terminate the identification process (413). If a phone number and/or name of person or party regarding the call to be made is found in the network phonebook (405), the phone number/destination ID is then presented/displayed at the user terminal with an available picture, in the network phonebook, of the person named or associated with the located phone number, as one example. High end handheld terminals that have fairly large size screens are able to display a picture of the person to be called, in addition to other information related to that person. With the presenting/displaying at the user terminal the phonebook information directed to the person or party to be called, the outgoing call ID process ends with the call being initiated at the network side (409), and when a phone connection is made (with the receiving end of the initiated call accepting the connection) (410), the call continues to completion (411). If the connection is not made, for example, because the receiving end of the call is busy or has not kept his or her line open, the connection process is terminated for the time being (412).



With regard to process 400 in Fig. 4, if the initial  
phonebook application query to the local phonebook  
database at the user's side is successful (402), the  
calling number and/or destination ID are  
5 presented/displayed at the user terminal (408) and the  
process continues with the wireless terminal initiating  
the call, through the network, based on the number  
located from the local phonebook. If the receiving end  
accepts the call, the connection is made (410) and the  
10 call continues to completion (411), otherwise the  
connection process is terminated (412). To reiterate,  
the phonebook application process requires the facility  
of a user interface (UI) and the like at the wireless  
terminal end.

15 Typically, in company networks including wireless  
LANs, access to the company database is, typically,  
through a secured online access including user  
authentication and authorization and data encryption.  
The network may have a security firewall as well as  
20 encryption solution for terminal users for outside the  
area covered by the access points of the network so as to  
allow communication with the network through other means  
such as over the internet.

Turning back to the phonebook database, the type of  
25 information that may be held therein may be phone  
numbers, addresses, name and picture, if available, and

profile information of personnel/clients of a company or corporation, a company plant, or organization/association and the like. As to the phone numbers held in the phonebook database, they can be phone numbers of office phones, facsimile phones, cell and mobile phones, pagers and handheld devices including Personal Digital Assistance (PDAs) and palm units with and without a voice capability. The contact addresses of clients/personnel may be terminal addresses including E-mail addresses of desktop and portable computers and the like. The phone application search query may have one or more items from the following list, although not limited thereto: a name and contact information including address, phone number(s), facsimile number(s), an E-mail address and the like; a title of person in company/organization; a unit, plant or branch of company; a project group or work team; a building/site location; picture of person; and a person's administrative assistant. Of course, this pertains to search queries associated with outgoing calls to be made. As to identifying caller names of incoming calls, the phonebook application at the local phonebook database (at the user terminal side) simply compares the incoming call phone number with the phone numbers in that database to locate the caller name and any other pertinent information such as the caller's business card.

Fig. 5 of the drawings shows a process 500 which is another example of a method for online accessing a network phonebook by a user terminal. Unlike process 400 in Fig. 4, Fig. 5 directs the phonebook application only to the network phonebook and not first to the local phonebook at the user terminal database. Alternative, the phonebook application can be applied through the user terminal to both the local as well as to the remote phonebook at the network, simultaneously. Therefore, insofar as relating the process 500 in Fig. 5 to that of the process 400 in Fig. 4, 501-511 are similar to that of 403-413 shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings. Therefore, since the discussion pertaining to 403-413 according to the process in Fig. 4 is also applicable to that of 501-511 of the process 500 in Fig. 5, no further discussion of Fig. 5 is given for purposes of brevity.

In addition to a phonebook application, the invention further features a journal viewing application in which the communication system such as a network and, more particularly, a wireless LAN provides background information wirelessly to a user terminal. This accessing of background information is provided to the terminal user at the time he needs the information, for example, at the time of an incoming call as well as when a terminal user wants to initiate an outgoing call. That is, the relevant background information obtained from the

journal database is instantly available at the time of an incoming call as well as at the time of initiating an outgoing call.

Process 600 in Fig. 6 is an example of a process 600  
5 of implementing a journal viewing application in conjunction with an outgoing call ID process (601), such as with regard to Figs. 4 and 5 of the drawings, although not limited thereto. If the phone number/destination directed to an outgoing call has not been located in  
10 either the local or in the remote network phonebook (602), the ID process is terminated (603) and journal viewing application for obtaining background information directed to the call to be made is not made. If the outgoing call ID process is successful, (602), the  
15 network automatically commences with searching of the database for background information related to the outgoing call to be made (this is featured by the dashed line and process 605 in Fig. 6). Alternatively, if instructions to start a search query is begun by the  
20 wireless terminal user, once an outgoing call ID is made, then a query is sent to the network to release to the caller at the user terminal background information related to the outgoing call (604), and this is followed by a search being performed of the database for  
25 background information (605). If the network search for journal (background) information is successful (606), the

journal information is sent (released) to the caller at the Wireless Terminal (WT) (607). As to the background information, if the caller considers the information adequate, (608), an outgoing call is then initiated by the network (612) which is followed by the completing of a phone connection (614) in which case the call continues until completion (615) or the connection process is terminated (616) and the connection is not made.

However, if the journal information sent to the caller is inadequate or the caller wishes to have the information organized in the manner that would be presently relevant to him or her, then the caller, using the UI at the user terminal, can send instructions/query to modify the journal information (609-610). This can be repeated a number of times, especially, in connection with a call to be initiated since time is more plentiful for the caller to view the screen at the user terminal before making the actual call.

Referring to the flow chart in Fig. 6, if the journal viewing application cannot be effected as a result of not finding background information in the journal database (606), then the caller (terminal user) has the option of either making a connection (614) or terminating the connection process (616). Also, as long as an ID is made of the person or party to be called, for example, in connection with the phonebook application, a

call may be initiated (611) irrespective of whether a journal viewing application is successful.

Regarding the journal database, the type of background information that is held therein may be

5 previous phone calls, originating and terminating, including dates, times and durations; all prior E-mails; task lists; documents associated with originating or terminating call; a project; a calendar data; and the company or plant related to client or professional

10 contact information, and the like, although not limited thereto. Modifying/organizing of the journal information may be effected using Call Line Identification Presentation (CLIP) which works as a filter by getting all the relevant information that the user has chosen for

15 his or her immediate need. In this connection, a filter and/or organized background information may include a selected number of last calls (originating and terminating) including dates, times and durations; task headings; E-mail headings; and related documents,

20 although not limited thereto. The caller (terminal user) may also specify the time period from which the related documents originate and/or the number of call related items to be viewed on the screen. For example, when calling Mr. William Smith, the user specifies for the

25 journal to release the five last phone calls, three E-

mail headings, three task headings as well as related documents prepared in the last month.

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The results of the phonebook application may be displayed on a viewer screen of the wireless terminal and the results presented may be browsed on the screen. An example of this is given in Fig. 8 of the drawings showing a viewer screen 800 of a list of individuals along with their pictures which relate to the search criteria associated with a phonebook application query to the network database. Through a browsing application, all individuals selected on the basis of the search criteria can be viewed such as using a scroll bar 801. The Figure 8 example shows those individuals, in alphabetical order, which meet the search criteria "Company X, Sales and Symbol Marketing Department."

Fig. 9 of the drawings illustrates a journal database having background information which may be filtered and organized such as by using a Call Line Identification Presentation (CLIP) for viewing by the caller (terminal user). Such information is available for an originating call in connection with the process 600 in Fig. 6 as well as with regard to terminating calls (incoming calls) which will be further discussed with regard to Fig. 7 of the drawings.

Fig. 7 of the drawings shows a second example in which a user terminal is provided online access to a

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journal database of a system or network such as WLAN in connection with an incoming call. A process 700 features a journal viewing application in response to a caller identification associated with an incoming call to a wireless terminal. The caller ID process involving 701, 702 and 703 may involve a phonebook application process such as discussed with regard to Figs. 2 and 3 of the drawings, although not limited thereto. If the caller identity is found, the network then automatically searches the network for journal (background) information related to the incoming call (704). If a match is found in the journal database, the background information associated therewith is sent to the wireless terminal for viewing by the user (706) and if the terminal user needs additional information, a process similar to 608, 609 and 610 is effected in connection with 707, 708 and 709 in Fig. 7.

In accordance with incoming calls, the wireless terminal user (of the incoming call) may want to request for additional or modified background information, namely, organized and filtered information, such as discussed with regard to Figs. 6 and 9, after a phone connection is established rather than before the phone connection is completed, the latter being shown with regard to Fig. 7. In order to be able to view the screen as well as communicate by voice, there must be a hands-



free facility for the terminal user. This can be achieved through using a headphone while viewing/browsing a screen such as a palmtop device or, for that matter, a notebook computer which works wirelessly and which may be hooked up with the headphone. In Fig. 7, irrespective of whether a caller identification of an incoming call is made or whether a journal viewing application is successful, a phone connection may still be completed (710, 711).

10 Figs. 10, 11 and 12 are three examples (although not limited thereto) of employing a protocol application at the user terminal end and server end of the communication system or network such as WLAN in connection with the present invention. In each of these figures, the local  
15 phonebook information is stored at the user terminal side and may be a storage medium such as of flash memory (flash disk) variety while the remote phonebook information is located at the network where it is accessible by a server having access thereto.

20 With regard to the embodiment in Fig. 10, this involves a phonebook application which is a World Wide Web (WWW) IP-based application using Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) to transmit information between the wireless terminal and the web server and, moreover, using  
25 a Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) browser to query the local phonebook such as in the wireless terminal.

According to this approach, the transport interface employed is an HTTP interface which allows communication between the user terminal and the web server which has access to the network phonebook (journal database). The web browser is used with a plugin in order to be able to access the local phonebook information, i.e., the phonebook data that is stored in the local storage means such as a flash disk (e.g., an EEPROM flash memory disk). It is preferable that either the browser implementation or the special plugin application enables viewing the local and remote phonebooks, either separately or together. The plugin application can be further used to store any accessed (opened) remote phonebook entries (e.g., electronic business cards and the like) into the local phonebook storage medium. A plugin application is recognized automatically by the web browser and its function is integrated into the main HTML file.

Another approach for implementing the invention is shown with respect to the protocol scheme known as Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) which is a WAP browser for Wireless Application Environment (WAE) to access the information from the local phonebook in the wireless terminal. As can be seen from Fig. 11, when a WAP browser is used to access the remote as well as the local phonebooks, the following building blocks as shown

in the illustration are required. A WAP browser with WAE is provided to access the local phonebook information, that is, the phonebook data stored in local storage medium, such as a flash disk (e.g., EEPROM flash memory) in the user terminal (the wireless terminal may be a palmtop device or other type of wireless terminal such as a wireless phone with display and other services as mentioned in this specification, although not limited thereto). It must also have a WAP server at the network and this may involve a Wireless Service Protocol (WSP) link-up including a Wireless Markup Language (WML)-based connection to the WAP server in the network, in which WML is part of the Wireless Application Protocol (WAP). WML, formerly called Handheld Devices Markup Language (HDML), is a language that allows the text portions of Web pages to be presented on wireless phones and PDAs via a wireless access. The WAP server is facilitated to access separately stored phonebook information which phonebook information may be stored in an ordinary Web server of the network. In the case of Wireless Access Protocol (WAP), access to both the local remote phonebook databases may be facilitated through a consistent User Interface (UI) in which the terminal user can quickly access either phonebook. The Wireless Application Environment (WAE) will need to be modified so that an automatic addition of accessed information to the local

phonebook is made possible. This requires caching such that the local (offline) phonebook can be accessed using the browser even if there is no access to the remote Web/WAP server.

5           Fig. 12 is another example of a protocol application scheme directed to the present invention. This is basically a query-based access so that if you have a specialized UI in the wireless terminal or there is some proprietary information that does not easily fit into WAP  
10 (WML) environment, one possibility is to use a protocol application such as Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) to fetch the information from the database and present it to the wireless terminal. In case of specialized phonebook/contacts application, basically,  
15 the same elements exist as in the case of WAP or WWW browser. In the user terminal there is a phone application working as a client while the network has a server that communicates with the client. The terminal user (client) can fetch information from the server, having  
20 the phonebook database, using either proprietary protocols or, for example, LDAP. This specialized application makes it easy to provide truly consistent access to both and local network phonebooks while using the same UI.

LDAP is particularly applicable when there is some  
25 proprietary information that does not easily fit into WAP or Web-based browsing. If, however, the existing

contacts application cannot be modified, then wireless access to the network database at the server side is preferable through a WAP or web browser. In such cases, it is important to maintain and ensure that the UI look and feel remains consistent between the contacts application and the WAP/web browser. That is, the specialized or proprietary application is merged or implemented in terms of look and feel in a manner such that the person who is using the wireless terminal does not actually notice that he or she is using a special browser or a query-based application other than just the telephone itself that is all the time in the network.

This concludes the description of the example embodiments. Although the present invention has been described with reference to a number of illustrative embodiments thereof, it should be understood that numerous other modifications and examples can be devised by those skilled in the art that will fall within the spirit and scope of the principles of this invention. Also, reasonable variations and modifications are possible in the component parts and/or arrangements associated with the method and system therefor directed to the present invention that are within the scope of the foregoing disclosure, the drawings and the appended claims without departing from the spirit of the invention. In addition to variations and modifications

that are possible, alternative uses will also be apparent to those skilled in the art.

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